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Bangalore Mirror

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DEMOLITION SQUAD

BBMP sets 30-day deadline for owners of unauthorised buildings to bring them down

PAGE 6

THAT'S A CRACKER

As only few temporary fireworks stores permitted in Attibele this year, buyers are flocking to Hosur

PAGE 9

Pace of desilting work at Bellandur Lake has been slow, but over last two years, only 5% more accomplished; citing monsoon as excuse is farce, say citizens

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS SILT AWAY?

BDA's report says as of Aug 1, 70% of silt removed

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has submitted a progress report on the rejuvenation works of Bellandur Lake to the National Green Tribunal (NGT). According to the report, 22.69 lakh cubic metres of silt have been removed from the lake bed, for a total of 32.33 lakh cubic metres. However, locals say the pace of work has been frustratingly slow.

"As of August 1, 70% of the total estimated silt in diversion channels has been removed. However, rainwater impeded the desilting work due to the early onset of monsoon this year. Wet and slushy soil conditions inside the lake prohibited us from carrying out desilting," said the BDA in its report.

Citizens living around the lake have expressed disappointment with how work has progressed over the last two years.

"Not much has moved on ground over the last two years after the NGT monitoring committee was disbanded. At that time, the BDA had informed that 65% of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

Bellandur Lake in 2023. As foam subsided, so did the enthusiasm to get the desilting work done with

"There are days when the stench from the site is overwhelming. On other days, the lake froths and overflows. Apart from that, delay in completion of work is also impacting groundwater recharge —Sonali Singh, Citizen Changemaker, Bellandur Lake

Flood subsides, now power trouble begins

Fire & Emergency Services asks Bescom to cut electricity supply to Kendriya Vihar that is just recovering from recent flooding

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Residents of Kendriya Vihar, who are just out of a serious episode of flooding, never expected that they would once again be punished, that too for no fault of theirs. As if being flooded out twice in two weeks were not enough, around 600 families of the apartment complex were compelled to spend Monday night without electricity. Finally, they had to stage a protest demanding the Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) restore the electricity.

It all began when the Fire and Emergency Services wrote a letter to the Managing Director, Bescom, stating that Kendriya Vihar apartment complex comes under high-rise buildings category and it had not got a clearance certificate from the Fire and Emergency Services. "Though a letter was sent to Kendriya Vihar advising

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Abstract art exhibit

Explore 'Chromatic Rhythms,' a solo exhibition of paintings by renowned abstract artist Prabhakar Kolte. Often referred to as the 'Paul Klee of India,' he is a master of abstraction, whose works speak through vibrant, rhythmic layers of colour and texture. His work transcends the boundaries of representation, drawing viewers into a contemplative journey of discovery. His abstract works reveal a deep sense of contemplation, likened to gazing through a window that frames the infinite meditations of nature.
Where: Gallery G, 38 Lavelle Road;
When: Until November 22, 10 am to 6 pm

02 Musical drama

Watch 'Karimayi' a musical play as part of Ranga Shankara's Theatre Festival, 2024. The theme of the play is the progress of the destruction of the myths embedded in the life of a village. The drama begins with a murder. The villagers look at "Karimayi" as the very centre of their lives, and the city-bred look at her as a gold-fetching god. These very people become responsible for the destruction of the myth. The playwright employs the Bayalaata technique. **Where: Ranga Shankara;**
When: October 31, 7:30 pm

03 Art showcase

Do you feel that only the human mind speaks in ways that can be heard? If you go beyond that, there is the body, the soul, the spirit; there's even the wounded inner child in need of love and the shadow self that has stored all the grief you've been through. And they all talk. Join Anushya Christopher's artistic journey exploring these facets through the exhibition and sale of her artworks at Art @ Urban Solace.
Where: Urban Solace;
When: Until October 31, 11 am to 10 pm

Government officials check on Suburban Rail progress

A team of state government officials on Tuesday inspected the ongoing construction works of Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) at Kanakanagar.

Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, along with Manjula N, Managing Director, K-RIDE (Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited), and other senior officers of K-RIDE inspected the ongoing construction works along Kanakanagar of Corridor 2, BSRP.

During the inspection, the Chief Secretary said, "This construction exemplifies a strategic infrastructure advancement for high-traffic urban areas where space constraints make traditional options like Road Over Bridge's (RoB) impractical. The entire section is a 'poster example' of BSRP and what can be achieved through efficient planning, innovation and commitment to serve society. We are committed to delivering a world-class transportation system that enhances the lives of Bengaluru's residents and commuters."

On its execution plan, the officials said, first, construction will begin on the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project side. Once the BSRP section is ready, Indian Railways (IR) trains will be temporarily diverted to these new tracks. **– PTI**

King of ghazals in town

Marking 50 years in singer Hariharan's ghazal journey, a special event titled 'Be-Misaal' is coming to Bengaluru very soon. The maestro will perform some of his most popular renditions that brought the ghazal genre closer to the people. Bangalore Mirror is proud to be a media partner for this event that is every music-lover's dream come true. The concert is happening at Phoenix Market City, Bengaluru, on November 9 from 7 pm onwards. And what is more, we have passes to the event for you. **To participate in the contest, turn to Page 9 and make it a point to follow us on our Instagram page @bangaloremirror**

Woman files complaint against husband over repeated threats

Husband is threatening to sacrifice our child in black magic: Woman requests protection for herself, her child

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A woman in Bengaluru has filed a complaint against her husband, alleging severe harassment, threats, and coercion for religious conversion. She has also claimed that her husband has threatened to sacrifice their child as part of a black magic ritual to acquire wealth. In her complaint to the KR Puram Police Station, Vanajakshi described an incident on September 13, 2024, when her husband Saddam, previously known as Aadhi Eshwar, and an accomplice allegedly attempted to abduct her son. However, she managed to escape with the intervention of local people.

According to the complainant, her relationship with Saddam began in 2020 when they met while working at an e-commerce company. She has alleged that he initially presented himself as a Hindu and married her under Hindu customs. However, following her pregnancy, he allegedly forced her to convert to Islam, claiming it would bring prosperity to their family. She further alleged that she was coerced into changing her name to Sadiya Kausar and was taken to an undisclosed location where the conversion rituals were performed under duress.

The situation escalated after the birth of their son, Karan Raj, on July 15, 2021. The complainant has reported that her husband began threatening her with horrific consequences if she did not comply with his demands, including a black magic ritual known as "Kutti Pooja" involving the sacrifice of their child for wealth gain. She detailed that his blackmagic practices included disturbing and dangerous rituals; he had become increasingly aggressive, even threatening the life of her mother. This harrowing experience has left her family living in fear.

Despite her attempts to seek help from local police stations, her initial complaint was reportedly dismissed. She has now expressed her concerns to the police commissioner, urging the urgent need for police protection for herself and her child.

Woman killed in road accident

A 35-year-old woman lost her life on the spot in a tragic accident near Jnana Sweekar School on Kanakapura Main Road on Tuesday morning. The victim, identified as Manjula, was a resident of OV Choodahalli. The incident occurred around 6:25 am when a two-wheeler, identified as a TVS Jupiter (registration no. KA05 LE3779), was involved in a collision with a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) bearing the registration number KA51 A7551.

It is said that the accident unfolded as the HGV, allegedly driven at excessive speed and in a careless manner, collided with the two-wheeler. The deceased was thrown onto the road with her body parts severely mutilated and scattered across the roadway. Upon arrival at the location, the police officials discovered the deceased's purse, which contained her driving license and registration certificate, enabling identification.

It is reported that the driver of the HGV fled the scene, abandoning the vehicle. Police officials are now seeking to take legal action against the driver, whose identity remains unknown. Further investigations are ongoing.

Aadhaar-linked process proposed for all exams

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has proposed Aadhaar-linked registration for students aspiring for professional course seats from next year, with an intention to put an end to the menace of seat blocking, official sources said on Tuesday.

The KEA has submitted this proposal to the Karnataka e-Governance department. "The e-Governance department is in favour of our proposal, and they have sent a proposal to the Government of India for approval. We are awaiting the approval soon," KEA Executive Director H Prasanna told PTI.

"Aadhaar-linked registration is proposed to ensure authentication which was not there so far, to prevent any mischief in the registration, and also to ensure dissemination of exam-related information to students on their mobile phones," Prasanna said. Furthermore, there are also plans to introduce Aadhaar-linked registration to recruitment exams conducted by KEA for various departments to curb impersonation and other malpractices, he said.

The move by the KEA comes in the wake of an alleged seat-blocking scam coming to light under the Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET) quota, after completion of all the rounds of engineering seat allotment. It was found that several students had blocked seats using the same IP address and that mobile numbers and email ids they provided to KEA were fake or wrong. According to officials, it was found that in some cases, students who opted for seats in sought-after streams at top colleges did not report to the colleges, which could result in all such seats under the KCET quota falling into the management quota. **– PTI**

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FCP INTERFACE/6878/OCT2024/ENG

Morning walkers and birds flock renewed lake

Rejuvenation of Kaggadasapura Lake is nearing completion, as BBMP finalises pathways, sewage treatment plant and planting of saplings

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BBMP workers cleared hyacinths from lake, completing task in 40 days before transporting waste to a designated location

Residents of Kaggadasapura and nearby areas now enjoy morning and evening walks at Kaggadasapura Lake, drawn by its clean environment and lush greenery. Once plagued by pollution, weeds, and garbage, the lake has undergone a transformation and is set to become a haven for migratory birds. It's quickly becoming a favourite spot for residents, especially senior citizens, to walk, relax, and unwind.

The BBMP Lakes Department has rejuvenated the lake. Most of the developmental works are in final stages and the development of walking paths is set to be completed in a few months. "Rejuvenation and development of Kaggadasapura Lake is my dream. I am delighted to see many people visiting the lake for a walk. I have interacted with people during my visit to the lake. Many senior citizens have told me that the environment at the lake is very good," said CV Raman Nagar MLA S Raghu.

The MLA said he wants to plant hundreds of saplings to increase

greenery around the lake. "We have already planted a few hundred saplings a few months ago. We will plant more saplings. I expect all the ongoing developmental works to be completed by December. The construction of a sewage treatment plant (STP) is in progress. My dream is to fill the lake with clean water," the MLA said.

Residents have appreciated the MLA and the BBMP Lakes Department for taking up the rejuvenation of the lake which was pending for quite some time. "Water in the lake is clean. I found migratory birds at the lake. The island in the middle of the lake is a great help for migratory birds. I am very happy to see an increase in water level in the lake," said Sreelakhmi S, a resident of Kaggadasapura.

> **"Water in lake is clean. I found migratory birds at lake. The island in middle of lake is a great help for birds**
> – Sreelakshmi S, resident

Stating that it is pleasant to see clean water in the lake, Prasad N, a resident, said the BBMP Lakes Department has to expedite the construction and development of a remaining portion of the pathway to avoid inconvenience to walkers whenever it rains. "I want to thank the BBMP and our MLA for rejuvenating the lake. It will be a great help if the remaining developmental works are completed without further delay," Prasad said.

The residents, especially walkers, were worried about seeing the spread of hyacinth in the lake two months ago. Now, the BBMP Lakes Department contractor engaged around 10 people to remove hyacinths from the lake. "Workers are busy removing hyacinths from the lake. It took us around 40 days to clear it. We dumped hyacinth on the lake bund and will transport it to the designated place in a few days," said Kantharaj C, a supervisor.

Meanwhile, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer (Lakes) Akshay said the development of pathways would be completed in one or two months. "We have a plan to construct a kalyani (idol immersion pond) at one side of the lake," the Assistant Executive Engineer said.

Bengaluru's traffic crackdown: 477 violations in one day

Traffic Police intensify operations, addressing infractions such as triple riding and no-entry

The Traffic West Division has intensified its crackdown on traffic violations, with a special operation conducted on Tuesday, resulting in the registration of 477 cases. This operation focused on serious infractions, including triple riding, no-entry, and footpath parking. The breakdown of violations for the day includes 60 cases of triple-riding, 338 cases of no-entry or one-way violations, 62 cases of footpath parking, and 17 cases of double parking. The total fines collected from these operations amounted to 2,41,100.

On Monday, the Traffic West Division had already registered 498 cases in a similar operation aimed at curbing traffic rule violations. The violations recorded that day included 401 cases of one-way or no-entry violations, 49 cases of footpath parking, and 48 cases of triple-riding. This operation resulted in a significant fine collection of 2,54,000.

In addition, the East Traffic Division also conducted a special operation on Monday, registering a total of 325 violations. This initiative led to fines of 1,62,500 and aimed to enforce compliance with traffic regulations.

As Bangalore faces ongoing traffic challenges, the Traffic Police urge all road users to prioritise safety and adhere strictly to traffic laws to create a safer driving environment for everyone. Further operations are planned to sustain this momentum.

Festive season traffic advisory

As the festive season approaches with Deepavali and Kannada Rajyostava, followed by a long weekend from October 31 to November 3 the Bengaluru Traffic Police have issued a traffic advisory in anticipation of significant congestion in the city due to increased travel activity. To ensure the safety and convenience of all road users, appropriate traffic management measures have been put in place. The police urge the public to plan by organising travel itineraries in advance and considering travel times. Additionally, road users are encouraged to familiarise themselves with alternative routes to avoid congestion and to utilise public transport wherever possible to reduce the number of vehicles on the road. As peak hours are expected to be particularly busy, adhering to traffic rules and exercising patience will contribute to a safer and more enjoyable festive experience for everyone. The Bengaluru Traffic Police request the cooperation of the public during this busy period. — BMB

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Unattended car

RT Nagar

An unknown car has been parked outside a residence on 12th Cross, RT Nagar, 1st Block, for several days.

Cleaning delays

Gangondanahalli

For over a week now, the BBMP's auto has not cleaned the area opposite Male Madeshwara Temple at 4th Main, 1st Cross, Gangondanahalli.

Waste dumping

New Tharagupet

In New Tharagupet on 4th Main Road, an oil mill dumps waste daily, causing a rise in mosquitoes, yet no action has been taken to address the issue.

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Citizens livid as BBMP out to fix what is not broken

Residents of Jayanagar 1st Block question civic agency's decision to undertake unnecessary demolition and restoration work at perfectly well-maintained drain

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Residents of Jayanagar 1st Block were surprised to see workers engaged by a contractor demolishing a roadside drain that appeared to be in good condition. Typically, residents face challenges in receiving prompt responses from BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) engineers on infrastructure-related issues, often needing to follow up repeatedly to address such concerns in their areas.

Residents of Jayanagar 1st Block, under VV Puram ward, are requesting the BBMP not to demolish the existing stormwater drain, as it remained clear of silt and debris and did not experience waterlogging during the monsoon. "We are shocked to see the workers demolishing the existing stormwater drain and shifting stone slabs to some other location. We never faced water logging or choking of drains in our area. It is not clear what made the BBMP engineer take up the roadside drain work on the 9th Cross," said D Roopa, a resident.

She said the contractor stopped shifting the stone slabs only after residents questioned him about the need to shift the stone slabs to some other location. "I requested a copy of the work order from the BBMP engineer, which specifies that the funds are allocated under the Budget Head: Honourable Mayor Grants. Currently, there is no Mayor for Bengaluru, yet the work order states that the funds for improving the drains are from Mayor Grants. How is this possible when the city has been without a Mayor for the last four years?" she asks.

Existing stormwater drain facing demolition

The BBMP Executive Engineer (Chickpet Division) has issued the work order dated August 5 to Lokanatha Reddy of Kaveri Nagar, Kaval Byrasandra for the improvement of roads and drains in Hombegowdanagar ward and VV Puram ward. The total cost of the improvement of roads and drains is Rs 2,97,03,318. The work order stated that the stipulated time to complete the work is 11 months from the date of the work order issued.

> **"We never faced water logging or choking of drains in our area. It is not clear what made BBMP take up the roadside drain work on the 9th Cross** – D Roopa, resident

Kumar CN, a resident, said the existing drain was improved two years ago. "I do not know who has asked the BBMP authorities to improve the drain. We are not against the BBMP taking up developmental works but why are the BBMP authorities wasting money on the drain that is in good condition?" asks Kumar.

He said that no water logging or flooding incidents were reported at Jayanagar 1st Block all these years. "We never faced problems of water logging or choking of drains at our locality," he said. However, BBMP Assistant Engineer Ravi Kumar said the improvement of the drain work was taken up after receiving representations from residents. "The estimation for the improvement of the drain was prepared a few months ago. Now, the improvement of the drain has begun. The problem here is that some people want the improvement of the drain while others oppose it," he said.

BBMP tightens noose on illegal and unauthorised constructions

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In response to the tragic collapse of an under-construction building in Babusapalya near Hennur that led to the deaths of four labourers, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has promptly implemented enhanced safety measures. The BBMP has issued new guidelines aimed at preventing unauthorised and plan-violating constructions, outlining procedures for halting such projects and facilitating demolitions when necessary.

Owners of illegal constructions will be given a 30-day notice to self-demolish unauthorised structures. If they fail to act, the BBMP will proceed with the demolition at the owner's expense. Certain officials' support for building owners has, in some instances, enabled illegal constructions to continue without regulation. The BBMP has responded by issuing orders to curb unauthorised constructions.

Foundation marking and compliance checks

BBMP guidelines mandate that the boundary for a building's foundation must be marked within 30 days of the plan's approval. This marking should be conducted in the presence of Assistant Engineers, Urban Planners, and Assistant Directors

from the Urban Planning Division, with confirmation provided by Joint Directors at the central and zonal offices. Junior Engineers (JEs), Assistant Engineers (AEs), and Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) must regularly inspect constructions to ensure adherence to approved plans.

Mandatory 24-hour reporting

For any complaints related to construction violations, JEs and AEs must conduct inspections within 24 hours and submit detailed reports to AEEs. These reports should confirm the presence of unauthorised structures, exceeding floors, or other violations.

Notice to building owners

A scheduled date for site inspection will be communicated to building owners via mail or email. If the owner does not appear for the inspection, it will proceed in their absence. If plan violations or unauthorised construction are confirmed, a notice will be issued, questioning why the building should not be demolished.

Demolition and recovery of costs

A BBMP official said, "Building owners will have 30 days to demolish unauthorised parts or the entire structure. Should they fail to comply, the BBMP will carry out the demolition and recover costs from the owners. Assistant Executive Engineers are instructed to estimate demolition expenses, secure technical approvals, and assign demolition contracts to third parties if necessary. If building owners are unreachable, notices will be served to their agents, staff, or family members. If addresses are known, registered mail will be used; otherwise, notices will be posted at the residence or office."

Strict compliance and accountability

A senior BBMP official added, "Any BBMP official or staff member failing to prevent unauthorised constructions or enforce demolition orders will face strict action under relevant sections of the BBMP Act and the Karnataka Civil Service Rules."

IN BRIEF

CM's tax collection warning

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday warned that officials failing to meet the commercial tax collection targets will be held accountable.

During a review meeting chaired by him to discuss the progress of commercial tax collection, he emphasised it must not fall short under any circumstances. The state has set a commercial tax collection target of Rs 1,10,000 crore for 2024-25.

As of October end, Rs 58,773 crore has been collected, comprising GST of Rs 44,783 crore, Karnataka Sales Tax of Rs 13,193 crore and Professional Tax of Rs 797 crore, the CM's office said.

The state has achieved 53.5 per cent of the target so far. Compared to the same period last year, the collection has increased by Rs 5,957 crore, it said, adding that to meet the yearly target by March, Rs10,200 crore per month needs to be collected over the next five months.

Siddaramaiah announced that he would conduct monthly reviews and reiterated that any official not meeting the target will be held accountable. The CM further noted that the 'Karasamadhana' scheme is expected to bring in an additional Rs 2,000 crore. Later reviewing the Excise Department's tax collection, Siddaramaiah instructed the department to take strict measures to prevent illegal liquor smuggling from Goa and meet the March deadline for the target.

He warned that any complaints of corruption within the department would be dealt with firmly. — BMB

Quarry union stages protest

The members of the Union of Karnataka Quarry & Stone Crusher Owners Associations on Tuesday staged a protest in Bengaluru against the officials of the Mines and Geology Department for the suicide of Nagesh, a lorry owner, at Ramanagara.

They alleged that officials of the Mines and Geology Department had demanded Nagesh pay Rs 8 lakh which led to the latter's suicide. "I demand the government take action against the officials responsible for the death of Nagesh. They demanded Nagesh to pay Rs 8 lakh towards penalty for transporting sand, gravel and crushed rock.

Unable to pay such a huge amount, Nagesh ended his life by hanging from a tree on the premises of the Mines and Geology Department Office," said D Siddaraju, President of the Union of Karnataka Quarry & Stone Crusher Owners Associations.

Uma Shankar, treasurer of the Union of Karnataka Quarry & Stone Crusher Owners Associations said, "We urge the Chief Minister to take action against those officials responsible for the death of Nagesh. We will stage a huge protest during the Assembly session in Belagavi in December in support of our long-pending demands." — BMB

Darshan bail: High Court to pronounce order today

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday reserved its order on the bail petition of jailed Kannada superstar Darshan after completing arguments and counter-arguments.

The Bench, headed by Justice M Nagaprasanna, will pronounce the order on the bail plea on Wednesday.

Senior counsel CV Nagesh, appearing for the jailed actor, stated that Darshan is suffering from severe back pain, which is causing numbness in his legs. He added that if the condition persists, Darshan could face further health complications.

Nagesh explained that there is an issue with a disc that is obstructing blood flow, making surgery unavoidable for Darshan, as it cannot be treated by other means.

He noted that the health issue was not mentioned when the initial bail plea was submitted but has since worsened, prompting them to seek bail on medical grounds. He argued that everyone has the right to health, and under these circumstances, regardless of the charges, bail should be granted.

Nagesh also referenced Supreme Court judgments that support this right. Special Public Prosecutor (SPP), Prasanna Kumar, opposed the bail, stating that the doctors who examined Darshan indicated only potential future complications.

In the previous report, the doctors

noted that there was no serious health issue at present.

Kumar added that while there was a problem with Darshan's hip, it has since been stabilised. He also pointed out that the doctor's report lacks details about the nature of the surgery, the duration of treatment, and the location where the surgery will be performed.

Counsel Nagesh clarified that Darshan is a native of Mysuru and has previously received treatment at Apollo Hospital there, where he intends to be treated again. He added that none of the case's witnesses were based in Mysuru. The Bench observed that even undertrials have a right to health and questioned the SPP about considering the latest health report.

Darshan is hoping to get bail before Diwali as the Karnataka High Court is taking up his appeal petition on Wednesday. Experts also indicated that the jailed actor is most likely to get bail on health grounds. Darshan's wife, son, family, and fans are keenly awaiting his release as he has been lodged in prison for the last four months.

Darshan, Pavithra Gowda and 15 others were arrested on June 11 on charges of kidnapping and brutally murdering Renukaswamy from Chitradurga. Renukaswamy had allegedly sent derogatory and obscene messages to Pavithra Gowda as he was miffed with the actor for his relationship with Pavithra Gowda despite being married.

Darshan was shifted to Ballari prison after photos of 'royal treatment' for him at the Bengaluru Central Prison surfaced. He is facing three FIRs in this connection. The police submitted a 3,991-page charge sheet on September 4. **IANS**

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RBI adds on gold reserves

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) added another 102 metric tonnes to the domestically held gold in the April-September period, as per a disclosure made on Tuesday. The overall quantity of the precious metal stored in local safes stood at 510.46 metric tonnes as of September 30, which was. The central bank said it added another 32 metric tonnes of gold reserves in the six-month period. **PTI**

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Tolerance transfer pricing

The income tax department has notified the tolerance range for variation between arm's length price and transfer pricing for international and specified domestic transactions for Assessment Year 2024-25. The range has been retained at the same level as last year's—one percent for "wholesale trading" and three percent for all other taxpayers, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said. **PTI**

Purchase gold wisely this Dhanteras: Govt urges festive shoppers to buy BIS hallmarked gold jewellery

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), supported by Hallmark's longstanding trust, encourages consumers to purchase gold and silver with a thoughtful approach as the festival of Dhanteras is near. Dhanteras is when families purchase gold, representing prosperity, good fortune, and security for the future.

BIS has played a key role in pushing this shift, encouraging consumers to make informed selections by emphasising the value of hallmarked gold and silver jewellery.

Hallmarking charges for gold

"Consumers are also empowered now to verify the authenticity of HUID on Hallmarked gold jewellery by using the 'Verify HUID' icon on the BIS Care App. The hallmarking charges for gold jewellery are Rs 45 per article, excluding taxes. Consumers can get their Hallmarked jewellery tested at any of the BIS recognised Assaying and Hallmarking Centres (AHCs) after paying testing charges of Rs. 200," said stated the PIB release.

The BIS Hallmark serves as a certification method for authentic metals used in gold and silver jewellery sold in India.

How to check purity of gold using BIS app

To check the authenticity of the hallmarking, download the BIS CARE application from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store and log in using your name, phone number, and email address.

To verify jewellery hallmarking, you should go to the "verify HUID" section. Once you click on the "verify HUID" option, you will be directed to a screen where you can type the HUID of the gold jewellery you want to purchase.

Then click on the search option. It will show your all the HUD details of the gold jewellery including the jeweller's registration number, the assaying and hallmarking centre, AHC registration number, AHC address, the article type, the date of hallmarking, and purity.

Select 'Know your Standards' for information on any Indian standard, Licenses against it and laboratories for this product.

Benefits and features of BIS app

Here is a look at the features and benefits of using the BIS app, according to its official BIS app details page on Google Play Store:

- You can file your grievances or complaints using the app's 'Complaints' feature on issues such as poor or sub-standard quality of marked products, misuse of our marks, false promises of quality, or a gap in our services.
- BIS app can check the authenticity of ISI, Hallmark, and CRS Registration markings on any item or product. Simply select the sort of complaint you wish to register through a simple user registration or OTP-based login, fill out the specifics of the complaint, preferably with evidence, through well-designed and straightforward forms, and submit.
- Enter the licence number/HUID number/Registration number found on the product or item to obtain all relevant information, such as the manufacturer's name and address, the licence or registration's validity.
- Get a complaint number and an acknowledgement of your complaint sent to your phone number and email address for future reference.
- The authenticity of commodities, licences, registrations, and hallmarks can all be verified.
- If the goods' licence, registration, or hallmark number are incorrect, the client can file a complaint right away.
- ISI can file complaints about trademark infringement and hallmark infringement.
- You can also file a complaint concerning registration marks, deceptive advertising, and other BIS-related issues.
- The customer will receive information on how to make a complaint right away using the app.

ET Online

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Unofficial dump yard

Garbage piled up in south Bengaluru, last cleared unknown

ED questions former MUDA commissioner, DB Natesh, in money laundering case

The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday questioned DB Natesh, a former Commissioner of the MUDA, in connection with a money laundering case in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority in which it has booked Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his family and others, official sources said.

The federal agency had raided the premises of Natesh and another former MUDA Commissioner, GT Dinesh Kumar, on Monday, as it covered 7-8 premises in Bengaluru and Mysuru while conducting fresh searches in the case.

Sources said the ED is recording the statement of Natesh at its office here while it has asked Kumar to join the investigation. He was not found at his premises during the Monday raids, the sources said.

An alleged close aide of the CM, Rakesh Papanna, and a builder named Manjunath were also searched by the ED.

Social activist and complainant in this case, Snehamayi Krishna, on Monday said he has handed over 'video evidence' to ED in support of his complaint.

The federal agency conducted the first round of raids in this case on October 18 when it searched the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) office in Mysuru and some other locations.

It also questioned some lower-rank officials of the MUDA at its Bengaluru zonal office last week.

Taking cognisance of a Lokayukta FIR, the ED has filed an enforcement case information report (ECIR) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to book the Karnataka CM and others. **PTI**

TWO-WHEELER THEFT RING BUSTED

Stolen bikes worth ₹11.92 lakh recovered

While some thieves target vehicles parked near temples, some thieves were brazen enough to attempt thefts from other states as well

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

City police have nabbed suspects in two incidents of two-wheeler theft in the city that have led to the arrest of individuals responsible for multiple thefts, resulting in the recovery of 18 stolen vehicles worth a total of Rs 11.92 lakh.

During a press conference with the media, Police Commissioner B Dayananda urged that strict action is being taken against vehicle theft, as stolen vehicles are often used to facilitate other criminal activities.

Two-wheelers parked outside Meenakshi Koil Street in Shivajinagar

Two arrested for two-wheeler theft; seven vehicles recovered

In a string of brazen thefts targeting vehicles parked near temples, Kodigehalli police arrested two men who had been stealing two-wheelers from unsuspecting devotees. The thieves, who took advantage of worshippers leaving their vehicles unattended, were caught after one of their daring heists at a Sai Baba temple. Their arrest has uncovered a city-wide spree, leading to the recovery of seven stolen bikes worth Rs 3.92 lakh. The arrests have led to the detection of six cases of two-wheeler theft in various parts of the city.

The case came to light when a resident of Sai Baba Temple Road filed a complaint at Kodigehalli Police Station on October 8, 2024. The complainant reported that his two-wheeler, parked next to a Puja store near the Sai Baba temple, had been stolen after he left the key in the vehicle. A case was registered, and an investigation was launched.

The arrested individuals were produced before the Honoroble Court on October 19, 2024, and were remanded to police custody for six days for further interrogation. During the investigation, it was revealed that the accused were responsible for thefts in Kodigehalli, Annapurneswar Nagar, and Koramangala, solving a total of six cases. On October 22, 2024, both accused were once again presented before the court, where they were remanded to judicial custody.

Man arrested for two-wheeler theft; police seize 11 vehicles

Similarly, the Mahadevapura Police have arrested a man involved in a series of two-wheeler thefts across Bengaluru. The police have recovered 11 stolen two-wheelers valued at Rs 8 lakh, solving multiple theft cases from various police station limits.

Despite a detailed investigation and efforts by the police, no significant leads were obtained until October 20, 2024, when an informant provided crucial information. Acting on this tip, the police arrested the accused near KR Puram Railway Station and recovered the stolen two-wheeler.

The accused was produced in court on October 21, 2024, and remanded to seven days of police custody. During further interrogation, he revealed the location of several other stolen vehicles. On October 23, 2024, the police seized seven two-wheelers parked near the railway station diesel shed in the Mahadevapura area. Another three two-wheelers were recovered on October 26, 2024, from an empty space next to the KR Puram railway parking lot.

In total, the police have seized 11 two-wheelers. The vehicles were linked to nine different theft cases across various police jurisdictions, including Mahadevapura, Whitefield, Mico Layout, Baiyappanahalli, Suryanagar, and one case from Thiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu. The police are working to trace the owners of the remaining recovered vehicles.

No building plans to be approved in industrial areas without jurisdiction

The Karnataka High Court has mandated the state government to pursue both disciplinary and criminal actions against local authority officials who process plan sanctions or occupancy certificates for industrial areas established by the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board, or Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd., without proper jurisdiction.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj provided this directive after noting that the authority to grant plan sanctions, development plans, occupancy certificates, and commencement certificates for properties in industrial areas, estates, or single unit complexes lies exclusively with KIADB and KSSIDC. This decision followed a state government notification in July, based on recommendations from a court-appointed committee, which confirmed these organisations' exclusive authority over building plan approvals.

The case originated when Y Venkatesh, who owned an industrial plot in Bommasandra industrial area, Bengaluru, challenged authorities' demolition orders. His building, which housed a restaurant, was constructed based on plans approved by the Anekal panchayat, which lacked the legal authority to grant such approvals. Following the government's assertion that local bodies lack jurisdiction over industrial area building plans, the court instructed the petitioner to submit a proper plan sanction application to KIADB. Additionally, the court authorised KIADB to inspect the building for compliance with applicable bylaws and order the demolition of any non-compliant portions.

Deepavali shopping: Hosur becomes festive hotspot

People flock to Hosur to buy firecrackers amid ban on Attibele shops; city commissioner issues guidelines for safe, environment-friendly Deepavali

People buying firecrackers at a shop

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Every year, over a hundred firecracker shops would pop up around Attibele-Karnataka/Tamil Nadu border as Deepavali approached. This year, however, following last year's tragedy at a firecracker shop in Attibele, Anekal, where 16 people lost their lives, a ban has been imposed on firecracker sales in the area. As a result, only a few temporary stores have been permitted, and people are now flocking to Hosur to make their Diwali purchases. This surge in traffic toward Hosur, particularly along Neruluru Road, Hosur Road, and the Attibele Toll, has resulted in daily traffic jams, especially during the evenings.

Sources said that shops in proximity to last year's accident site have been denied permission to operate this year, and only those with permanent licences have been allowed to open. Within the Attibele Town Municipal limits, six shops have received permits, while the Attibele Police Station jurisdiction has issued permits to 15 stores. The Surya Nagar Police Station area has allowed 11 firecracker shops to operate, while the Hebbagodi City Municipality has granted a permit to just one shop.

According to Attibele police, shops are allowed to operate only after addressing safety concerns. However, citizens have also voiced concerns over inadequate safety measures in both temporary and permanent shops. Although large firecracker stocks are held in shops, only minimal fire fighting equipment is in place. At one shop in Chandapura, for instance, only one drum of water and one drum of sand are available.

Deepavali guidelines

The Bengaluru Police Commissioner has issued essential guidelines for the public to ensure a safe and environmentally friendly Deepavali celebration. People are encouraged to purchase eco-friendly green crackers and are advised to use protective equipment like gloves and goggles when lighting fireworks, keep fireworks away from inflammable materials, and maintain a safe distance between fireworks and people.

> **Keep first aid kits ready; in case of emergencies, individuals can contact services at 112 or 108**
>
> –City Police Commissioner

Moreover, fireworks should be avoided in crowded or residential areas and near buildings to prevent accidents, and people are urged to refrain from using loud, high-noise crackers that may disturb others. Children must always be supervised by adults. A communique from the police commissioner said, "After using fireworks, ensure they are fully extinguished to prevent accidental fires, and cleanliness should be maintained. Used items must be disposed of safely to prevent environmental hazards. Firecrackers with dangerous chemicals or those that produce excessive noise should be avoided, and high-intensity fireworks should only be used between 8 pm and 10 pm to adhere to prescribed timings."

The advisory also reminded the public not to consume alcohol or drugs while handling fireworks, to use low-intensity fireworks where possible, prioritise eco-friendly options, and minimise noise pollution to avoid causing distress to the elderly, sick, and animals. "First aid kits should be kept on hand to handle any injuries that may occur, and in case of emergencies, individuals can contact services at 112 or 108. Fireworks should not disrupt public spaces such as schools, hospitals, or places of worship." Authorities are urged to ensure strict adherence to these guidelines, and any violations of safety regulations will be met with strict action.

Permit granted to 315 firecracker stalls in city

In preparation for the 2024 Deepavali festival, a meeting including all concerned authorities on September 27 was held to discuss the setup of temporary firecracker stalls on designated grounds in Bengaluru City. Based on the meeting outcomes and reports, applications for temporary firecracker stalls were invited online between October 10 and 15. A total of 1,518 applications were received, and permits for 315 stalls across 68 grounds were allocated through a public lottery held at the CAR headquarters on Mysore Road. Temporary permits for these stalls are valid from Tuesday to Saturday.

To oversee the safe sale and use of firecrackers, a committee has been established, including Assistant Police Commissioners, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials, the Fire Department, the Electricity Department, and representatives from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, said the police commissioner.

Be pawsitive towards furry friends

The loud noise from firecrackers is overwhelming for pets, particularly cats and dogs, leading to disorientation, anxiety, and even trauma. Many pet owners have observed their animals hiding or trembling for hours, with some pets even refusing to eat or go outside. "Every Diwali, we notice an increase in cases of pets displaying anxiety-related symptoms. Some even require mild sedatives to keep them calm," a veterinarian said.

Stray animals, on the other hand, face the harshest consequences, as they have no protection from the fireworks. They are often exposed to firecracker injuries and loud sounds that can permanently affect their hearing and general well-being.

Sanjana Narendra, an animal rescue volunteer, told BM that she has seen multiple cases where the animals, especially street dogs, are targeted. "There was an incident where a dog picked up a firecracker in its mouth, and it exploded, severely injuring the dog's jaw," she recalled. "These loud noises cause dogs to panic and run, trying to escape without realising their surroundings. In many cases, they end up being hit by vehicles, abandoned, or left injured," she stated. On this note, many NGOs and other animal activists are voicing the need to protect stray animals during the festival season.

—Atiya Firdos

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It's high time to keep celebrations bright, noise out of sight

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As Deepavali lights up the skies and streets, the festival's celebrations often bring with them unintended consequences for everyone, especially the elderly citizens, pets and stray animals.

Recently, a 22-year-old woman narrowly avoided harm when two men on a bike allegedly threw a firecracker at her. Although she managed to escape unharmed, her encounter brings into focus the potential risks of the festivities.

The city reported its first firecracker-related injury on Tuesday. An 18-year-old bystander sustained injuries and was taken to Minto Hospital. Doctors reported that he suffered from grade two hyphema with a 7mm by 6mm epithelial defect.

Many senior citizens with heart conditions, respiratory ailments, and high blood pressure experience exacerbated symptoms due to the noise and pollution during the festive season. "Noise can be especially disruptive for senior citizens, particularly when it interrupts their daily routines. Many are highly sensitive to smoke, which can impact their

Stay safe: City reports its first firecracker-related injury on Tuesday

respiratory health," said Public Health Doctor Sylvia K. She said that the risk of injuries often confines them to their homes, and emotionally, they may feel left out while others enjoy festivities. "Additionally, when lamps lit near homes or pathways become littered, it can deeply affect their sense of comfort and safety," she explained.

Additionally, fireworks release harmful pollutants, including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and heavy metals, which can exacerbate conditions like asthma and other respiratory issues. Studies have shown that air quality levels during Diwali often reach hazardous levels, putting citizens at risk.

Digital silence: Women gig workers make loud point

Union asks workers to join in nationwide strike on festival day to press for employee status and other demands

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India's first women gig workers' union, Gig and Platform Services Workers Union (GIPSWU), has announced a nationwide 'digital strike' scheduled for Deepavali, October 31. Workers across major cities including Bengaluru, Delhi, and Mumbai are being urged to participate by turning off their phones and maintaining 'digital silence' throughout the day.

The union's primary demands focus on obtaining employee status for gig workers at platform companies, ensuring better working conditions, securing minimum wage guarantees, establishing proper complaint resolution systems, and gaining rights for collective organisation and negotiation. Additionally, GIPSWU is pushing for both Central and State governments to implement labor law regulations in the gig economy, provide social security benefits like EPF and pension schemes, and extend maternity benefits to workers in this sector.

Multiple gig worker organisations have consistently highlighted concerns about the lack of worker protection mechanisms and the denial of basic employment rights. As stated in a union release, "In light of these challenges, GIPSWU's digital strike seeks to unite gig workers and allies in demanding recognition of their rights." The strike aims to address these ongoing issues affecting gig economy workers across India.

A female gig worker said, "As women gig workers, we face different issues from what our male counterparts face. While we are told that we hold the power with regard to our employment status, it is our employers who control us with arbitrary rules. More states must come forward like Karnataka has with the Gig Workers Bill. The Centre must also come up with a concrete stand."

Women workers face a different set of issues as compared to male colleagues

Demands focus on employee status, better working conditions, securing minimum wage guarantees, proper complaint resolution

Another worker noted that the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) mandates every employer who has 10 or more employees to set up an internal complaints committee (ICC) to specifically redress complaints raised regarding harassment at the workplace. But since gig workers are positioned outside the employer-employee binary, they do not fall under this section of the act, leading them to seek assistance from Local Complaint Committees (LCCs). "However, LCCs are inaccessible, leaving us with no room for redressal," the worker said, pointing to one of their issues. Unions have noted that LCCs are present scarcely across districts and details regarding them are not adequately publicised, and present online.

Rajyotsava footpath run 11K: Celebrate city's pathways

Bengaluru is gearing up for the Rajyotsava Footpath Run, a 11-km event that promises to be a unique celebration of the city's footpaths. Following the successful 10K run on October 2, this edition invites citizens to participate in the world's longest footpath run, set for Rajyotsava Day in Shivajinagar.

The route, certified as walkable by Arun Pai, Bengaluru's 'footpath mayor', has garnered support from BBMP (East Zone) and the Shivajinagar MLA's office. The event is free and open to all, with no prior registration required. Participants should report to the footpath opposite Vidhana Soudha by 6:45 am to collect their chest numbers, with the run commencing at 7 am.

Encouraging a festive spirit, participants are invited to wear the state colours of red and yellow. The scenic route will cover iconic spots, including Cubbon Road, Halasur Lakefront, and Raj Bhavan Road. Water stations will be provided along the way.

This initiative is part of the #BLRFootpathChallenge, aiming to promote safe walking and improve the city's footpath infrastructure. For more information, contact bangalorewalks@gmail.com.

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HEALTH TIP: Tomato, garlic or spicy food and certain beverages like alcohol, carbonated drinks, and coffee can cause heartburn and acidity

Drinking a cup of milk a couple of times a day could help prevent cavities and tooth decay

DONE AND DUSTED

What are house dust mites and how do I know if I'm allergic to them?

People often believe they are allergic to house dust. But of the 20 per cent of Australians suffering with allergies, a number of them are actually allergic to microscopic house dust mites.

House dust mites belong to the same family as spiders and ticks. They measure just 0.2-0.3 mm, with 50 fitting on a single pinhead. They live for 65–100 days, and females lay 60–100 eggs in their life.

House dust mites love temperate climates and humidity. They feed off the skin cells we and animals shed, as well as mould, which they digest using special enzymes. These enzymes are excreted in their poo about 20 times a day. They also shed fragments of their exoskeletons.

All these fragments trigger allergies in people with this type of allergic rhinitis (which is also known as hay fever)

What are the symptoms?

When people with house dust mite allergy inhale the allergens, they penetrate the mucous membranes of the airways and eyes. Their body recognises the allergens as a threat, releasing chemicals including one called histamine.

This causes symptoms including a runny nose, an itchy nose, eyes and throat, sneezing, coughing and a feeling of mucus at the back of your throat (known as a post-nasal drip).

People with this type of allergy usually mouth breath, snore, rub their nose constantly (creating a nasal crease called the "dust mite salute") and have dark shadows under their eyes.

House dust mite allergy can also cause poor sleep, constant tiredness, reduced concentration at work or school and lower quality of life.

For people with eczema, their damaged skin barrier can allow house dust mite proteins in. This prompts immune cells in the skin to release chemicals which make already flared skin become redder, sorer and itchier, especially in children.

Symptoms of house dust mite allergy occur year round, and are often worse after going to bed and when waking in the morning. But people with house dust mite allergy and pollen allergies find their year-round symptoms worsen in spring.

How is it diagnosed?

House dust mite allergy symptoms often build up over months, or even years before people seek help. But an accurate diagnosis means you can not only access the right treatment – it's also vital for minimising exposure.

Doctor and nurse practitioners can order a blood test to check for house dust mite allergy.

Alternatively, health care providers with specialised allergy training can perform skin prick tests. This involves placing drops of the allergens on the arm, along with a positive and negative "control". After 15 minutes, those who test positive will have developed a mosquito bite-like mark.

How is it treated?

Medication options include one or a combination of:

- daily non-sedating antihistamines
- a steroid nasal spray
- allergy eye drops.

Your health care professional will work with you to develop a rhinitis (hay fever) medical management plan to reduce your symptoms. If you're using a nasal spray, your health provider will show you how to use it, as people often use it incorrectly.

If you also have asthma or eczema which is worsened by dust mites, your health provider will adapt your asthma action plan or eczema care plan accordingly.

If you experience severe symptoms, a longer-term option is immunotherapy. This aims to gradually turn off your immune system's ability to recognise house dust mites as a harmful allergen.

Immunotherapy involves taking either a daily sublingual tablet, under the tongue, or a series of injections. Injections require monthly attendances over three years, after the initial weekly build-up phase.

These are effective, but are costly (as well as time-consuming). So it's important to weigh up the potential benefits and downsides with your health-care provider.

How can you minimise house dust mites?

There are also important allergy minimisation measures you can take to reduce allergens in your home.

Each week, wash your bedding and pyjamas in hot water (over 60 degrees C). This removes house dust mite eggs and debris.

Opt for doonas, covers or quilts that can be washed in hot water above 60 degrees C. Alternatively, low-cost waterproof or leak proof covers can keep house dust mites out.

If you can, favour blinds and wood floors over curtains and carpet. Dust blinds and surfaces with a damp cloth each week and vacuum while wearing a mask, or have someone else do it, as house dust mites can become airborne during cleaning.

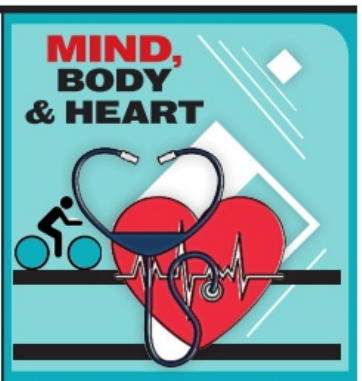
But beware of costly products with big marketing budgets and little evidence to support their use. A new mattress, for example, will always be house dust mite-free. But once slept on, the house dust mite life cycle can start.

Mattress protectors and toppers commonly claim to be "hypoallergenic", "anti-allergy" or "allergy free". But their pore sizes are not small enough to keep house dust mites and their poo out, or shed skin going through.

Sprays claiming to kill mites require so much spray to penetrate the product that it's likely to become wet, may smell like the spray and, unless dried properly, may grow mould.

Finally, claims that expensive vacuum cleaners can extract all the house dust mites are unsubstantiated.

(By Deryn Lee Thompson, University of South Australia, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Sleep anxiety

Common problem
A common challenge shared by many, sleep anxiety manifests as a nagging worry or unease about slipping into slumber and maintaining it. "It's like your mind is racing with thoughts, making it hard to relax and drift off into dreamland," says Archana Singhal, founder of Mindwell Counsel.
Triggers can be anything from stressors from work or school, concerns about life events, or even unexplained nervousness, she said. "Additionally, factors such as excessive caffeine consumption, screen usage before bedtime, or an irregular sleep schedule can contribute to sleep anxiety."
Archana outlines 5 tips to overcome this:
Stick To A Bedtime Routine: Try to go to bed and wake up at the same time every day, even on weekends. This helps regulate your body's internal clock.

Create A Relaxing Bedtime Environment: Make your bedroom a cosy and comfortable space for sleep. Dim the lights, turn off screens, and try calming activities like reading or listening to soothing music before bed.

Limit Caffeine And Screen Time: Avoid drinking caffeinated beverages like coffee or tea in the afternoon and evening, and try to avoid screens like phones, tablets, and computers at least an hour before bed.

Practice Relaxation Techniques: Deep breathing, meditation, or progressive muscle relaxation can help calm your mind and body before bed. The best way is to try different relaxation techniques to find what works best for you.

Seek Professional Help If Needed: If sleep anxiety is severely impacting your daily life, don't hesitate to reach out to a counsellor or therapist for support and guidance. They can help you explore underlying causes and develop personalised strategies to manage sleep anxiety effectively. **— Femina**

Delay in silt removal has made matters worse around Bellandur Lake

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personal

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I, N.SUDHAMANI, R/a Puttaiaha Palya Village, Yalagalavadi Post, Yalagalavadi, Tumkur-572126. I, have changed my name to, S. SUDHAMANI, Vide affidavit, dated 23/10/2024 Sworn before Notary: Prakasha. C. Bangalore

I, Neetha W/o Vijaykumar B Guraddi R/o #3, 1st A cross APC Layout, Near Lakesure Garden, Kodigehalli Bangalore, Karnataka-560097, have changed my name to Neetha V Guraddi for all future purposes.

I MUJEB KHAN S/o Abdul Majeed R/o No 502 5th Flr Sky Height Apartment No 1 4th Cross Ambedkar Layout Bangalore 560023 have changed my name to SYED MUJEEB for all Purposes

I, Anand S R/o No. 3210, 2nd Cross, Kumarswamy Layout, Bangalore - 560078 have changed my minor son's name from Bhuvan A to Bhavish A.

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- LOGISTICS ASSISTANT
- PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR
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- QUANTITY SURVEYORS CIVIL/ARCH
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

desilting had been completed. Just a 5% increase over two years is very slow progress. At this pace, the work will take another 10 years to complete," lamented Sonali Singh, Citizen Changemaker, Bellandur Lake.

Wetland construction

The progress report also underlines that 30% of the wetland construction work has been completed.

"30% of wetland formation work at the main inlet of Koramangala and Agara valley is completed. At present, work is stopped owing to the monsoon," noted BDA in its report.

Locals say BDA should have planned the project with a six-month working period.

"We have not seen any work happening on site for months now. Citing the monsoon as an excuse is farcical. They keep saying that since it is filled with water, we are not able to carry out work. You have to dewater initially on the other side also, they've done it at 70%. They brought motors and they pumped that water out," said a resident.

Lake activists in the area underline that since the rejuvenation plan, prepared by researchers after conducting a scientific study of the lake was laid out in the NGT report, the delay in the project implies that BDA could not follow it promptly.

Notably, BDA initiated the rejuvenation work of Bellandur in 2020 and had earlier committed to complete the work by December 2024.

Issues are aplenty

Piles of solid waste accumulated at multiple locations, foul smell, and overflow of sewage are only some of the problems that locals are facing due to the ongoing rejuvenation work.

"We have noticed tons of plastic bottles and other solid waste getting accumulated now and then. Once it happens, sewage flows backward and contaminates the part of the lake that has already been rejuvenated. There are days when the stench from the site is overwhelming. On other days, the lake froths and overflows. Apart from that, delay in completion of work is also impacting groundwater recharge," added Singh.

Lack of coordination with locals

"We have been involved in the process since the beginning. We have facilitated inter-nodal communication problems. Locals also keep BDA officials informed about the situation on ground. Earlier, BDA used to call us every two months for site visits. However, that stopped months ago," complained another resident.

Residents of complex stage protest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

renewal of clearance certificate but the people in-charge of the structure did not do so. I advise you not to supply electricity to Kendirya Vihar. If the electricity is being supplied, disconnect it. I advise you to inform this office about the measures taken," read the letter by TN Shivashankar, Director, Fire and Emergency Services.

The Director of Fire and Emergency Services wrote a letter on October 23 to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner to withdraw the occupancy certificate issued to Kendriya Vihar as the structure is in violation of building byelaws and National Building Code Zoning Regulations. "I advise you not to issue occupancy certificates to Kendriya Vihar. Cancel it if you have already given the occupancy certificate," the letter read.

R Shiva Prasad, president, Kendriya Vihar Apartment Owners' Association, told BM that he had submitted an application to the Fire and Emergency Services on September 20 for the inspection of Kendriya Vihar. "We are not against inspection of Kendriya Vihar by the Fire and Emergency Services. We are ready to cooperate with them and follow the norms. We are facing a lot of problems due to the disconnection of power supply," said Shiva Prasad.

The negligence of the officials incharge of monitoring applications submitted online is obvious with one look at the website of Fire and Emergency Services. It is quite surprising to come across a letter (October 23) from the Fire and Emergency Services to the Bescom and the BBMP without taking an application submitted online one month ago (on September 20).

Many of the residents, who bought flats in the recent years, do not know about the height of Kendriya Vihar or whether it comes under high-rise buildings category but all have been left in the dark.

Kannada film courts controversy over felling of trees in forest land

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Tuesday directed officials concerned to take disciplinary action against those who permitted felling of trees in a forest land here, where a set was erected for shooting a Kannada movie titled 'Toxic'. He also conducted a spot inspection of the site where the shooting of the movie 'Toxic', starring actor Yash, was held.

In a note to Additional Chief Secretary of Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, he said a total of 599 acres of reserve forest in Bengaluru's Peenya plantation 1 and plantation 2 is gazetted, which was illegally handed over to HMT (Hindustan Machine Tools) in the 1960s without de-notification.

He also quoted the Supreme Court as saying "once a forest is always a forest unless de-notified."

The Minister also noted that the land that is in HMT's possession without de-notification is a forest.

"HMT illegally sold the forest land in its possession to various government and private organisations and individuals and non-forestry activities take place here. The felling of trees in this forest area is visible from the satellite image," he said. **PTI**

Squid Game in English
Acclaimed director David Fincher may have set a new 'Squid Game' series as his next project at streaming service Netflix

NEW MOM HITS THE GYM

Yami Gautam is easing back to work and fitness

After embracing motherhood, actor Yami Gautam is gradually stepping back into her fitness routine. Yami, who welcomed her first child, a son named Vedavid, with husband Aditya Dhar in May, recently shared a photo from the gym, captioned, "Time to get fit." Dressed in casual black workout attire, she posed confidently by the dumbbells, marking her journey to regain fitness.

Yami has dedicated herself to motherhood since Vedavid's arrival.

However, she is now focused on balancing her role as a mother with her fitness goals. Known for her roles in films like 'Vicky Donor' and 'Uri: The Surgical Strike', Yami is gradually easing back into work as well. She previously shared a photo from a recent promotional shoot, mentioning how good it felt to be back.

The star couple announced Vedavid's birth on May 10 in a heartfelt joint Instagram post, revealing that he was born on Akshaya Tritiya, a day considered auspicious. They shared their joy, as they wrote, "We are thrilled to announce the arrival of our beloved son, Vedavid, who graced us with his birth on the auspicious day of Akshaya Tritya. Please shower him with all your kind blessings and love." The message concluded with gratitude and a hopeful message for their son's future, accompanied by folded hands and a heart emoji.

Yami and Aditya, who tied the knot in June 2021, first revealed their pregnancy in February during the trailer launch event for 'Article 370', in which Yami starred alongside Priyamani. —ETimes

Hrithik in Alpha?

Following successful releases such as 'Ek Tha Tiger', 'Tiger Zinda Hai', 'War', 'Pathaan', and 'Tiger 3', The Yash Raj Films (YRF) is gearing up to expand its universe with two upcoming films: 'War 2' and 'Alpha'. 'War 2' will see Hrithik Roshan reprising his role as the charismatic agent Kabir, alongside NTR Jr. in a parallel lead role. However, before that, Hrithik is set to make a significant appearance in 'Alpha', which will begin shooting on November 9 in Mumbai.

According to reports from Pinkvilla, Hrithik's character Kabir will play a crucial role as a mentor to Alia Bhatt and Sharvari in 'Alpha'. The report revealed that, "Hrithik Roshan as Agent Kabir is ready for a crossover in Alpha. The actor is excited as this would mark the first-ever crossover of his character in the YRF Spy Universe."

The film 'Alpha' is notable as it introduces a female-led action franchise with Alia Bhatt and Sharvari taking center stage. —ETimes

WITH BLESSINGS

Bollywood actress Sara Ali Khan seeked blessings at Kedarnath and shared pictures from her visit.

Sara took to Instagram, where she posed in front of the temple dressed in a red T-shirt paired with white pants and a shawl covering her head.

"Jai Shree Kedar. The flowing of Mandakini.. The aarti sounds... A milky ocean... Beyond the clouds

Until next time #jaibholenath." Kedarnath Temple, one of the twelve jyotirlinga of Shiva is located on the Garhwal Himalayan range near the Mandakini river, in Uttarakhand. Due to extreme weather conditions, the temple is open to the general public only between the months of April and November.

Earlier last week, Sara visited the Hidimba temple as she started shooting with actor Ayushmann Khurrana for next in Manali.

Sara took to Instagram stories, where she shared a string of pictures. —IANS

JEREMY AS THE BOSS

Hollywood star Jeremy Allen White is going from 'The Bear' to 'The Boss' as his first look as Bruce Springsteen in the upcoming biopic 'Deliver Me From Nowhere' has been unveiled.

Directed and written by Scott Cooper, 'Deliver Me From Nowhere' adapts Warren Zanes' book of the same name about the making of Springsteen's 1982 album 'Nebraska', reports 'Variety'.

Filming is taking place primarily in Springsteen's native New Jersey and New York, with additional production in Los Angeles, and the movie is set to hit theatres next year.

According to a press release, Springsteen's recording of 'Nebraska', "marked a pivotal time in his life, one that he would only openly talk about decades after its release. It's regarded as a landmark in his musical odyssey and a source of inspiration for a generation of artists and musicians. Recorded on a 4-track recorder in Springsteen's New Jersey bedroom and without The E Street Band, 'Nebraska' is considered one of Springsteen's most enduring works, a raw, haunted acoustic record populated by lost souls searching for a reason to believe".

As per 'Variety', the cast also includes Stephen Graham as Springsteen's dad, Paul Walter Hauser as guitar tech Mike Batlan and Odessa Young, who is rumoured to play a love interest.

"Beginning production on this film is an incredibly humbling and thrilling journey," Cooper said in a statement. —IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

From villain to hero

Real Ranna, a well-known rapper in Kannada, is on cloud nine due to the chance to play the lead in the film Karma Chakradhol Mr. E. The shooting of the movie is in the final stages. Real Ranna hopes that Karma Chakradhl Mr. E will establish him as a hero in Sandalwood.

"I am happy to get the chance to play the lead in the movie. I got more screen space to showcase my acting skills. The shooting is expected to be wrapped up in a few days and it may arrive in theaters in a few months," said Real Ranna.

He played the villain in the film Hejjaru that was released in July. "I played a staunch follower of Naveen Krishna who played the villain. I am grateful to Akash Joshi who encouraged me to become an actor," he said.

He has also acted in two short films – Anthar Kalaha and The Café of Garadipura.

"Many people appreciated me for playing the villain in Back Benchers. I also acted in a music album," he said.

Excited

Sapthami Gowda is excited about playing the female lead in Halagali that is expected to be made in multiple languages. Daali Dhananjay is playing the lead. Sapthami shared screen space with Dhanajay in Popcorn Monkey Tiger.

"I am happy to get a chance to share screen space with Daali Dhananjay. The script of Halagali is very interesting. It is about the Beda community's uprising against the British in 1857. My father was present when the director narrated the script to me. I always take my father's advice before signing a movie. My father never put restrictions on me but was always ready to give his advice," said Sapthami.

She said the shooting of her Telugu movie Thammudu is in the final stage. "Halagali will be my second pan-India movie," she said.

Halagali will be directed by Suresh DK. Its muhurat function was held in Mysore a few months ago. As per the plan, Darling Krishna was supposed to play the lead in Halagali but the director and producers decided to replace him with Daali Dhananjay as he was busy with his prior commitments. The movie is expected to be made with Rs 80 crore and the movie is scheduled to go on floors shortly.

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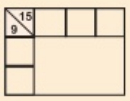
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

The difference between the ages of a father and his son is 52 years. If the father's age is three times of his son, then the son's age is?

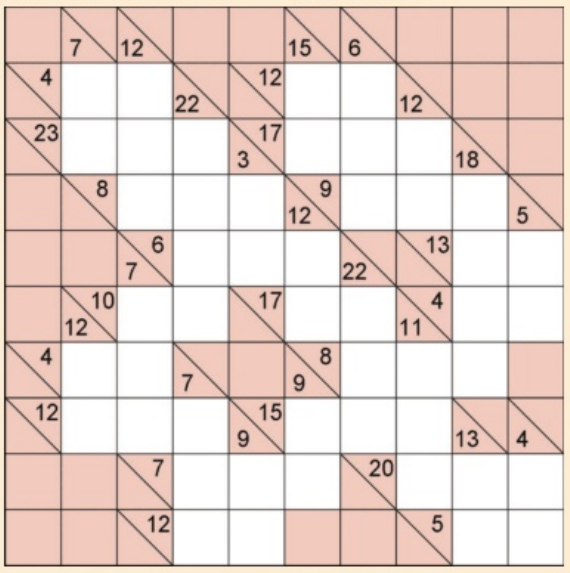
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

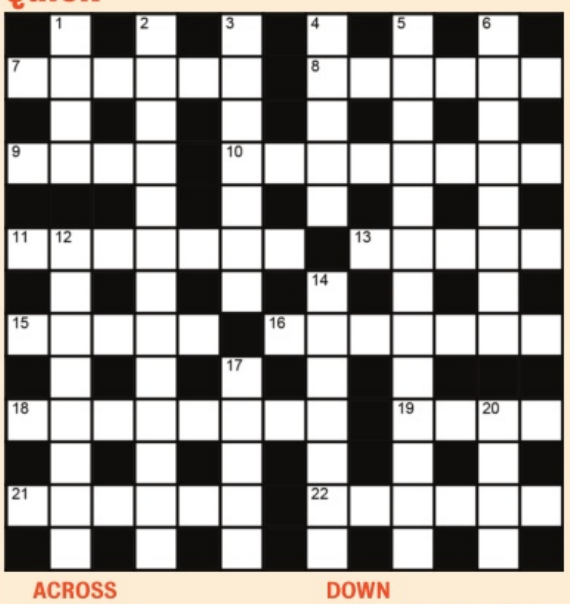


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Portray (6)
8 Entreaty or plea (6)
9 Judge (4)
10 _ ____ ____ his money are soon parted? (1,4,3)
11 Do away with (7)
13 Steeple (5)
15 __ ___ shape : in poor condition? (2,3)
16 Passage from a book (7)
18 Malady (8)
19 Judge's garb (4)
21 Madness or craziness? (6)
22 In a uniform manner (6)

DOWN

1 Nota __ : note well; take notice? (4)
2 Late shehnai maestro from Varanasi (9,4)
3 Austrian waltz composer (7)
4 Was wearing (3,2)
5 In __ __ __ : absolutely ship-shape? (5-3,5)
6 Tiny bit of precipitation (8)
12 National park between Mysore and Ooty (8)
14 Lived (7)
17 Green gemstone (5)
20 Incandescent lamp (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS S

X UFQSJMQQ RTXR HXYMQ JERTSJB UFR HEJMG SQ X AEEN UFQSJMQQ.

Linemaro

You're hotter than a Bunsen burner set to full power

Mindchow

If you are filled with pride, you will have no room for wisdom

Joke of the day

Blamestorming: Sitting around in a group discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed and who was responsible.

Loop

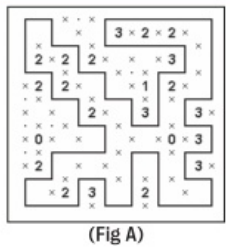
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

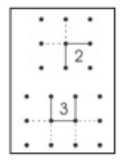
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

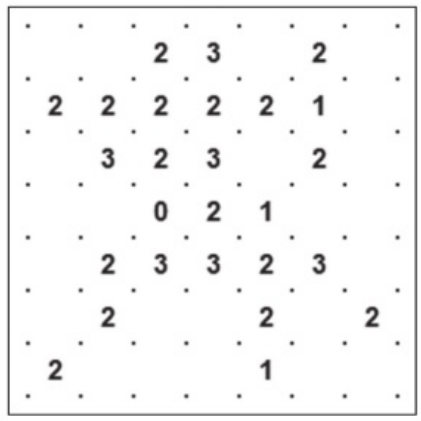
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



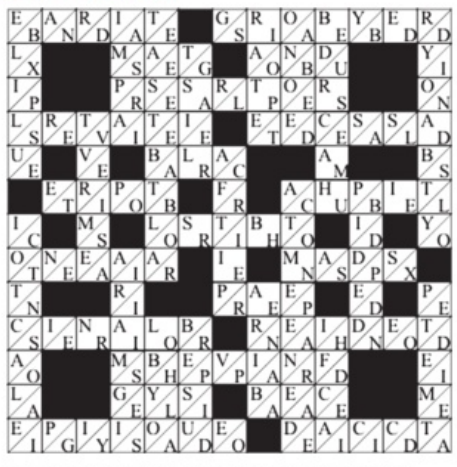
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



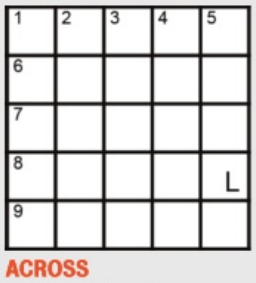
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Stabs; 6 I punt; 7 I need; 8 Melia (1-4); 9 Crete

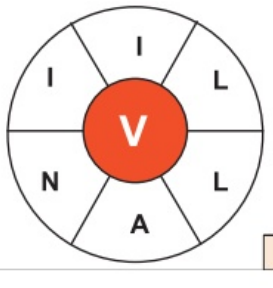
DOWN

1 Debit; 2 Maine; 3 Spare; 4 Cut in; 5 Sleet

Mensapuzzle

Solve this rebus:

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

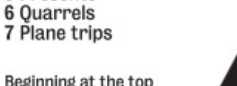
SudokuChallenge

4		1	9	6				
	5	9	8				4	
	2				1			
	4					5		1
	8	3				2	6	
7		5					3	
			1				8	
	9				4	6	5	
				2	7	9		4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



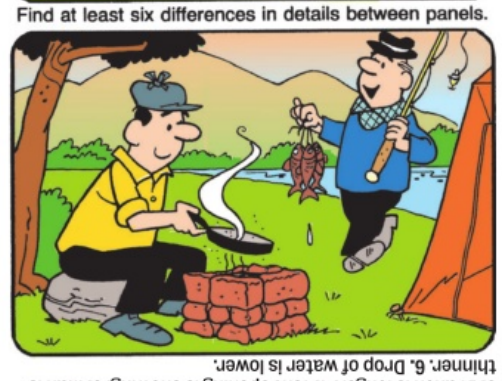
Easy = 16
3 5 6 8

Medium = 20
2 5 8 9

Hard = 7
3 5 6 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



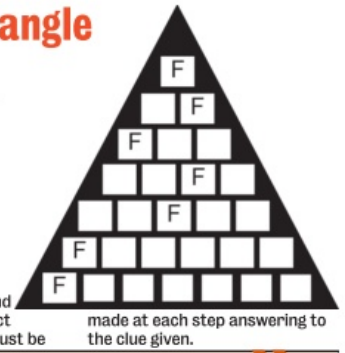
Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Finger is moved. 3. Branch is longer. 4. Tent opening is showing. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Drop of water is lower.

Riddler

Two hands upraised towards the sky The night will end, the day will die. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 6th letter
2 Despite being
3 Be the right size
4 Filter through
5 Presents
6 Quarrels
7 Plane trips

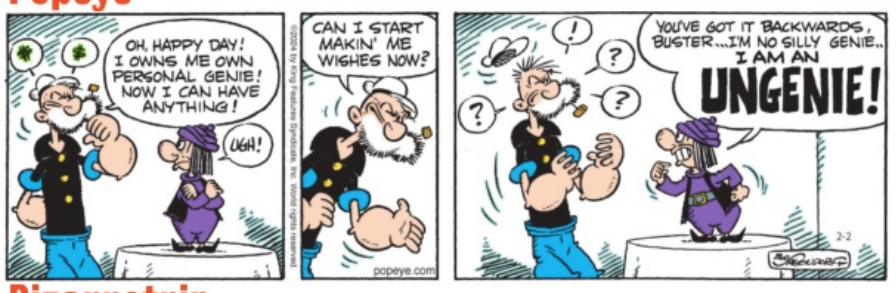


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

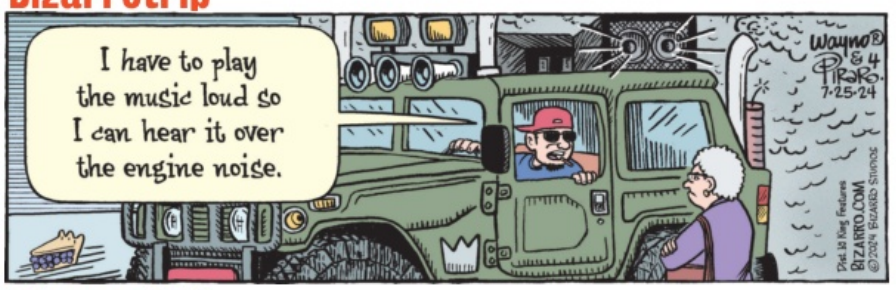
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


OH, HAPPY DAY! I OWNS ME OWN PERSONAL GENIE! NOW I CAN HAVE ANYTHING!
UGH!
CAN I START MAKIN' ME WISHES NOW?
YOU'VE GOT IT BACKWARDS, BUSTER...I'M NO SILLY GENIE... I AM AN UNGENIE!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

FRED DIED AT WORK, DOING WHAT HE LOVED BEST
AND THESE LOVELY FLOWERS ARE FROM HIS COLLEAGUES DOWN AT THE SAWMILL
I'LL LET YOU DO THE MATH
THANK YOU, LIL
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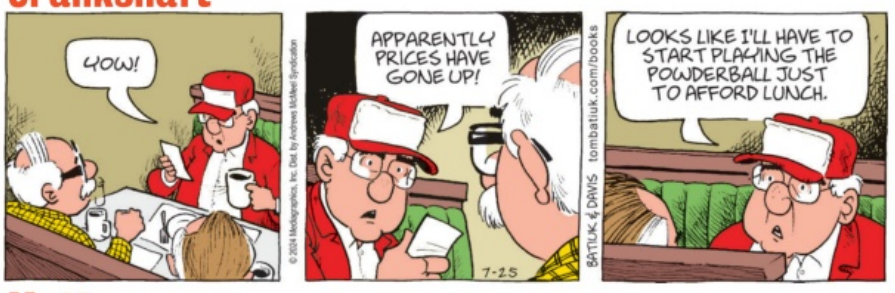
Hart of the city

I CAN GIVE YOU SALT, WATER, AND OIL FOR YOUR VOLCANO, BUT THE REST YOU'LL HAVE TO GET FROM THE COOKING CLASS KITCHEN.
AND MRS. WARREN IS A VERY STRICT TEACHER, AND YOU DON'T WANT TO GET ON HER BAD SIDE.
GOOD LUCK! SEE YOU AT LUNCH!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


WOW!
APPARENTLY PRICES HAVE GONE UP!
LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO START PLAYING THE POWERBALL JUST TO AFFORD LUNCH.
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
7-25

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may experience health issues, leading to impatience. It is advised to control your short temper. You might spend your hard-earned money on unnecessary items, which could affect your savings. Lovebirds should avoid discussions on trivial matters, as they may lead to disagreements or even breakups

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you might meet an influential person who can assist in advancing your work. With their help, your network will strengthen. You may prepare to implement new ideas into your work or business and consider investing more capital, which could bring financial gains shortly. Domestically, you will be occupied with family gatherings and social events.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, your mother's health may improve, bringing you relief. You'll enjoy your work and may receive recognition for your efforts. Your social respect could increase, but overworking might leave you feeling tired. Due to a heavy workload, you might miss a family event

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel satisfied with your work. You could plan a short work-related trip and visit a religious place to find inner peace. Guidance from mentors may provide you with clarity regarding your goals.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you might feel low and encounter some health issues. It is advisable to postpone any business investments or new ventures, as you may face potential losses. Gains might turn into setbacks, so proceed cautiously.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, domestic harmony may bring you joy. You might meet an influential person who could provide work-related benefits. You are likely to perform well in your job, with prospects of rewards or promotions. Disputes over inherited property may be resolved.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel healthy and focused on your goals. Your performance at work may be excellent, gaining the appreciation of your boss and leading to important responsibilities. Good news might come your way regarding legal matters, and you are likely to stay in control over opponents and business rivals

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may seek to gain knowledge and appreciate the value of intellectual assets. Managing your temper can help you perform tasks smoothly. Opportunities for steady earnings may provide comfort in your workflow. Exercise caution before making new investments in assets, but you might spend money on loved ones. Lovebirds are likely to enjoy their time together.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel dissatisfied and detached from your responsibilities, leading to confusion. It is advised to be practical in your approach to work to complete tasks on time. You should also attend to your parents' needs. If you're considering relocating, it would be best to postpone your plans for a few days.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today is a positive day for you, as your hard work may bring success both professionally and domestically. With a strong focus, you are likely to complete your tasks on time, boosting your self-confidence. A short work-related trip may prove beneficial for expanding your network.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you might be occupied with domestic issues and spend money on artifacts or household items. It is advised to control spending on unnecessary things, as it may invite negative energy into your home. Be mindful of your words and avoid harsh speech with those around you.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may find relief after navigating a challenging situation. Your vitality could help you make difficult decisions, especially in your family business, leading to growth. Assisting those in need may elevate your social respect. Students will likely gain clarity in their career choices.

Pratyush, Bengaluru

Buelah Bharath, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
F-S=52
F=35
35-S=52
2S=52
S=26
26 Years

BULL'S EYE
anvil, vain, vial, villa, VILLAIN

RIDDLER Midnight

FAST FIVE

B	A	S	T	S
I	N	P	U	T
E	M	A	I	L
D	I	E	N	E
T	E	R	C	E

STRIKE OUT

E	N	D	I	T		G	R	A	B	B	E	D	Y	
X		M	E	G		A	B	U		A			N	
I		P	S	A	L	T	E	R		D			I	
L	E	V	I	T	E		E	D	E	S	S	A		
E		E		A	L	A		A				S		
T	R	O	T		F		C	U	B	I	T			
C	S		O	R	T	H	O		I		Y			
O	N	A	I	R		E		M	A	P	S			
N		R		R	A	P		E			E			
S	E	N	I	O	R		R	A	I	D	E	D		
O		S	H	E		P	A	R	D		E			
L		E	L	I		B	E	E			M			
I		P	S	A	L	T	E	R			N			
X		M	E	G		A	B	U			Y			
E	N	D	I	T		G	R	A	B	B	E	D	A	C	C	A
E	P	I	S	O	D	E		D	A	C	C	A		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
Spiral Notebook

QUOTE UNCODE
A business that makes nothing but money is a poor business.

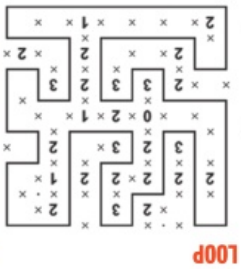
SUDOKU

5	3	8	6	2	7	9	1	4
1	9	7	3	8	4	6	5	2
2	6	4	1	5	9	7	8	3
7	1	5	2	9	6	4	3	8
9	8	3	4	1	5	2	6	7
6	4	2	7	3	8	5	9	1
8	2	6	5	4	1	3	7	9
3	5	9	8	7	2	1	4	6
4	7	1	9	6	3	8	2	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
F, If, Fit, Sift, Gifts, Flights, Fights.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 6 + 5 − 3 = 16
Medium
5 + 9 + 8 − 2 = 20
Hard
3 + 5 / 8 + 6 = 7

LOOP



KAKURO

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